

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-20  
HA-05 TRSE-00 IO-14 /106 W  
-----015715 220233Z /70

R 212223Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3663  
INFO AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO  
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM  
AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS  
AMEMBASSY VICTORIA  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO  
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI  
DIA WASHDC  
CINCPAC

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 19853

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PEPR, PDIP, CN, FR  
SUBJ: COMORIAN CO-PRESIDENT COMMENTS ON POLITICAL  
DEVELOPMENTS

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: COMORIAN CO-PRESIDENT, AHMED ABDULLAH, TALKS TO LE MONDE ABOUT DESIRE FOR IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH FRANCE, AND WITH THE COUNTRY'S INDIAN OCEAN, AND AFRICAN NEIGHBORS, ACKNOWLEDGES AND JUSTIFIES ROLE OF MERCENARY DENARD AND SPEAKS OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FOR THE ISLANDS. END SUMMARY.

2. COMORIAN CO-PRESIDENTS AHMED ABDULLAH AND MOHAMED AHMED ARE CURRENTLY IN FRANCE WHERE THEY ARE MEETING WITH FRENCH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. LE MONDE FOR JUNE 21 CARRIES EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH AHMED ABDULLAH QUOTED  
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BELOW IN ITS ENTIRETY:

QUESTION: WHAT IS THE OBJECT OF YOUR VISIT?  
ANSWER: WE WISH TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH FRANCE. IN EFFECT, SINCE THE UNILATERAL DECLARATION OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF OUR COUNTRY, SENEGAL HAS REPRESENTED OUR INTERESTS WITH THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT. WE HOPE THAT AN EXCHANGE OF AMBASSADORS

WILL TAKE PLACE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE BETWEEN PARIS AND MORONI.

QUESTION: HAVE YOU ALSO COME TO SEEK ECONOMIC AID?

ANSWER: EVEN THOUGH NO ONE KNOWS THE EXACT STATE OF THE COMORIAN ECONOMY AFTER THE DISASTROUS ADMINISTRATION OF THE PRECEDING GOVERNMENT, WE HAVE NOT COME HERE TO SOLICIT.

QUESTION: DO YOU JUSTIFY THE COUP D'ETAT OF MAY 13 BY THE DEGRADATION OF THE ECONOMIC SITUATION?

ANSWER: THAT IS JUST ONE ELEMENT AMONG OTHERS. IN FACT, THE REGIME OF ALI SOILIH WAS A BLOODY TYRANNY. IF THE COUP D'ETAT SUCCEEDED PRACTICALLY WITHOUT FIRING A SHOT, IT IS BECAUSE THE CORMORIAN POPULATION HAD REACHED THE END.

QUESTION: ARE YOU NOT BOTHERED BY THE FACT THAT THE MAN WHO OVERTHREW THE REGIME OF ALI SOILIH WAS THE FRENCH MERCENARY BOB DENARD?

ANSWER: WE DID NOT HAVE ANY CHOICE. THE SITUATION WAS VERY GRAVE AND NECESSITATED IMMEDIATE MILITARY ACTION. NO ONE ELSE WAS BETTER ABLE TO HELP US REALIZE OUR OBJECTIVES.

QUESTION: DOES BOB DENARD EXERCISE MINISTERIAL RESPONSIBILITIES IN MORONI?

ANSWER: NO HE IS NOT A MINISTER. HE OCCASIONALLY PARTICIPATES IN THE WORK OF THE POLITICAL UNCLASSIFIED

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DIRECTORATE. THIS PARTICIPATION IS PROVISIONAL. THIS BODY (DIRECTORATE) IS PROVISIONAL. AT THE MOMENT EVERYTHING IS PROVISIONAL IN THE COMOROS. WE ARE

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PREPARING A CONSTITUTION TO PUT AND END TO THIS  
TRANSITION GOVERNMENT.

QUESTION: DO YOU ENVISAGE PROFOUNDLY MODIFYING  
THE INTERIOR POLICIES OF YOUR COUNTRY?

ANSWER: AS WE ALREADY DECIDED IN AUGUST 1975,  
THE REPUBLIC OF THE COMOROS ISLANDS WILL BE FEDERAL  
AND ISLAMIC. UNDER ALI SOILIH IT WAS UNITARY AND  
FEROCIOSLY HOSTILE TO THE MOSLEM RELIGION.

QUESTION: AND FOREIGN POLICY?

ANSWER: WE HOPE TO HAVE GOOD RELATIONS WITH ALL  
THE MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE OAU AND PARTICULARLY WITH  
MADAGASCAR, TANZANIA, KENYA, AND THE SEYCHELLES WHICH  
ARE OUR NEIGHBORS. WE HOPE TO ENTER, AS SOON AS  
POSSIBLE, INTO THE ARAB LEAGUE, THERE TO JOIN OUR  
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CO-RELIGIONISTS. SINCE JULY 1975, WE HAVE MADE KNOWN  
OUR INTENTION OF ADHERING TO THE LEAGUE, BUT THAT WAS  
REFUSED BECAUSE OF THE ANTI-ISLAMIC POLICY FOLLOWED  
BY ALI SOILIH. OUR REQUEST REMAINS IN EFFECT.

QUESTION: WILL YOU PERSONALLY GO TO THE OAU  
SUMMIT IN KHARTOUM NEXT MONTH?

ANSWER: WE WILL GO THERE. EITHER MOHAMED AHMED  
OR MYSELF. IN ANY CASE, THE COMORIAN MINISTER FOR  
FOREIGN AFFAIRS, MR. MOUDJRAE WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE  
PREPARATORY MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE SCHEDULED FOR  
JULY 7 IN THE SUDANESE CAPITAL.

QUESTION: DID YOU RAISE THE QUESTION OF THE  
RETURN OF MAYOTTE TO THE COMORIAN ENTITY WITH MR. STIRN  
(FRENCH SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS) AND  
WILL YOU RAISE IT WITH OTHER FRENCH INTERLOCUTORS?

ANSWER: THE PROBLEM OF MAYOTTE HAS NOT BEEN

RAISED IN PARIS, EITHER WITH OUR FRENCH FRIENDS OR  
WITH MR. MARCEL HENRY, LEADER OF THE MAYOTTE MOVEMENT.  
THAT IS NOT OUR AIM. BUT IT IS CERTAIN THAT AS SOON  
AS WE HAVE COMPLETELY NORMALIZED OUR RELATIONS WITH  
FRANCE, OUR RELATIONS WITH MAYOTTE WILL BE EASIER.  
THE PEOPLE OF MAYOTTE ARE OUR BROTHERS EVEN IF THEY  
HAVE IDEAS DIFFERENT FROM OURS.

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## Message Attributes

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